



# WOMEN'S RIGHTS PROGRAMME

Oxfam in Kenya seeks to address gender inequalities through ensuring women's participation in social, political and economic spheres, with the aim of women gaining power over their lives to participate and contribute to public life.

## CONTEXT

Patriarchy and deep-seated power imbalances in the society, allow for perpetuation of gender inequality. Oxfam in Kenya seeks to tackle gender inequality in both the public and personal sphere by tackling the economic, social and political inequalities faced by women.

Despite all the existing laws and international instruments that seek to uphold women's right to participate fully and equally with men in all aspects of decision making, not enough progress has been made to advance women's rights and gender equality in the social, political and economic spaces.

Women, men and youth in poor and marginalized communities, constantly live in unequal power relationships conforming to cultural and traditional norms. This frequently blocks the implementation of laws, policies and programmes designed to uphold women's rights. There are some visible positive changes but not enough transformative changes.

## TARGET POPULATION



Women, men and youth in poor and marginalized communities in urban informal settlements and Arid and Semi Arid lands (ASALS).

## PARTNERS



Women's movements and coalitions, social movements, Government of Kenya, religious and cultural institutions civil society, unusual actors, research institutions, media, private sector, donor and bilateral agencies.



## OXFAM'S WORK IN WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Oxfam continues to pursue its commitment to promote sustained, widespread changes in attitudes, practices and beliefs about gender power relations to further women's rights and gender justice. To achieve this, Oxfam aims to contribute to a significant increase in women's participation in social, economic and political representation and influence in targeted decision-making processes to promote women's rights in policy and practice.

To strengthen women political, economic and social participation certain strategies are being used that includes;

- Research
- Coordinating interventions with Government of Kenya, International Organisations and the United Nations(UN) for sustainable engagement in women's economic rights
- Strengthening women's capacity in leadership
- Partnering with women's movements, champions and build coalitions to address barriers towards women's leadership
- Effective use of media, public campaigning, policy influencing and advocacy for change

The broader women rights work includes three main components; women political representation and participation, women economic empowerment and unpaid care and ending violence against women.

### WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & UNPAID CARE

Oxfam in Kenya seeks to ensure women gain power over their lives, to meaningfully participate and contribute to public life.

This is through:-

- Challenging structural barriers that keep women from achieving all dimensions of women empowerment economic, social, political and personal.
- Ensuring women have the capacities to enjoy their rights, control and benefit from resources, assets, income and their own time and ability to improve their economic status and wellbeing.
- Tackling social norms and fostering positive role models, promoting recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care work.

### WOMEN'S POLITICAL REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION

Oxfam purposes to contribute to a significant increase in women's political representation and influence in targeted decision making processes, to promote women's right in the policy and practice of government.

Mandated institutions provide a conducive environment for women, to meaningfully participate in electoral processes. Monitoring of political parties by IEBC and registrar of political party's monitor would enforce implementation of electoral laws, hence women would be equally represented and participate in political systems including formal decision making structures.

### ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Scope and approach of Oxfam's work on ending violence against women will be explored in coming years.

Oxfam also supports influential women leaders and male allies both within and outside of government institutions to challenge and change the institutional cultures that prevent women's equal and meaningful participation in public life.

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